

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#8/6

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF : STEVEN D. CLARK, PAUL MORRISON AND
PEDRO VELIS

TITLE : AMINE-FREE EMULSIFICATION OF
ALKALINE EARTH METAL SULFONATES

SERIAL NO. : 09/621,857

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EXAMINER : REDDICK, M.

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TO: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S OFFICE ACTION
MAILED MAY 6, 2002

This paper is respectfully submitted in response to the Examiner's first substantive Office Action mailed on May 6, 2002.

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Kindly amend Claims 1-6 as follows:

1. (Amended Twice) A method of forming an amine-free emulsion of an alkaline earth metal sulfonate compound, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) adding [a urethane-based] an associative thickener [compound] to water;
- b) dispersing said associative thickener [compound] in said water by mixing until a uniform solution of said water and said associative thickener is